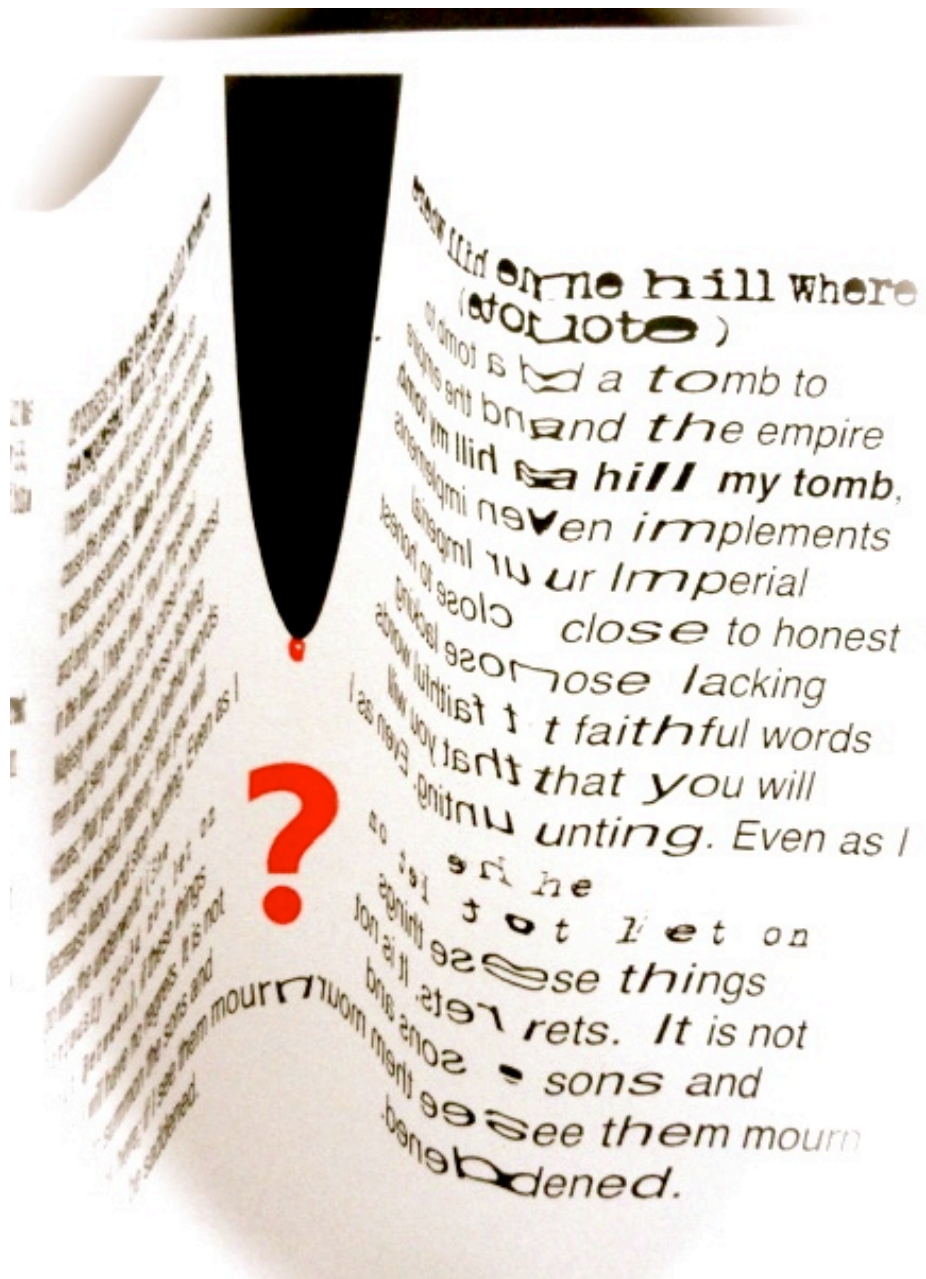


# Aleatory Poetry by Cheryl Penn



# Dorothy Orange.

<http://an-encyclopedia-of-everything.blogspot.com>

<http://collaborativecanto.blogspot.com>



Dorothy Orange

I **thought** that it meant

I don't know what

Dorothy Orange-

That I would stay away?

What happens if **?**

captures your spirit

and we're **lost** again

and **again**

under Red Chinese lanterns

glowing Umber

swaying in a **strange** breeze

tumbling vigilantes

drowning in depthless

**puddles** at zebra crossings

looking over her shoulder

at **too many yesterdays.**

I **thought** that it meant

I don't know what

Dorothy Orange-

That I would stay away?

May I come in?

The final starts at 9

Don't go to the bottom

**snapshots**

lost in the past

moments needing protection  
from fading forever.

Can you replace me

a double shift

I've done your laundry since  
you're 6

**Back Off**

eat your breakfast.

The music at **PRESENT**

sped up

the worlds first hydro magnetic energy  
is powering up

but the trains are

SO

S

l

O

W on orange grids designed by me.

**When** did you do this?

**Why?**

There's something you're  
**not** telling me

you always look down  
when I ask

**Tell ME!**

I need the truth.

I **NEED** to know.

it will **hurt** you

the genetics was **why** they ran away  
**over and over**

at **7** every morning.

**He** wouldn't look at **me**  
but a point

continually**Y**

over my shoulder  
he wouldn't speak  
except  
in mon-o  
syllables  
never remembering  
**even my name.**

Welcome **Dorothy Orange**  
to the **dark corridors**

of **home**  
your eyes will adjust  
its better that way as you face  
your own cadaver.

**Orange** yesterdays

60 seconds to impact  
this is not as I imagined  
it would be.

you had such potential  
such fierce intelligence

**NO!** - **you** only contacted me  
through your averted assistants.

Your childhood

had to be **sacrificed**  
for something **greater**

have your hands  
started to  
twitch

**Dorothy Orange?**

a hyper occasion  
of genetics  
beginning at your age.

The greatest inheritance  
I can give you  
the ability to stay alive

in perpetual sunlight

on burnt **Orange** corner cafes

classic inbox  
looking at the world  
and  
imagining it  
**better.**

change is not a slogan  
its persistence and  
holograms  
**hopes and dreams,  
but not today.**

Music choice  
The Blue Danube  
**I thought it was your duty to  
save me?**

Exciting news?  
no,

stainless steel corridors  
someone else's project I interrupted?  
All thumbs

The cat had an **Orange knot**

did you key in my birthday?

We're a giant business you know  
restoring investor confidence

did you have an  
**Orange breakup?**

Plausible deniability  
what was he thinking??

**Did no-one declare him incompetent?**

He needed you  
to make  
his choices clear

**WHAT'S THE ONE THING?**

**THE ONE THING?**

He wanted all the files  
as I descended the steps  
ghosts of 10 years -

I went to Brazil  
on a merry-g-round  
the model thing was ~~exhausting~~  
as we watched boats  
crash bridges

it was always

**The Question.**

It was always complicated

I have to go.

There's *something* on the corner

it wasn't his fault

the blue prints  
with electrical eyes

Progress on **Orange**

**stepping stones**

the difference is  
no one will miss you  
missing secret stations.

Same train

EVERY morning

a secret station

Cell phone on silent

**Hey - Can I see you?**

The music tumbled down

familiar pathways  
spontaneous outreach

the robot turned **red-orange**.  
Its market day  
can we salvage

**the ground rules?**

**Stop** humming **venom**

**extraction**

and don't tell me I look  
amazing  
The light is in my eyes  
and  
its **tears you're touching, not water**

**f**

**a**

**l**

**l**

**s**

He **WAS** an **electrical grid**  
splendid ice-cream  
rummaged whispers  
have you been following

**me?** going no-where

just watching  
transcribed brick walls  
and

spiders  
weaving stones.

Just once a day,  
some days  
**every** day  
make sure

they drink from the **Orange cup**  
of primordial pain -  
an oral exam

for Oxford.  
(the music was appropriate)

**Vangelis?**

I was sent away  
I tried to forget  
everything  
**including you**

we were both dumped  
pebbles crossing a river

skipping  
like empty briefcases  
spandex extra terrestrials  
eventually  
everything will be alright?

H G wells and the Invisible Man  
ask them

THEY dropped  
separate **Orange coins.**

I wanted them all to see **me**

but no-one did  
he drowned in the first

hydro-magnetic power **surge.**

The image became  
just data  
and the city  
died  
just a digital realm.

*On opening the cupboards  
in a digital realm  
beware of  
flying suits and*

*breaking stories.*  
*Its just DogTown, Boys.*  
*Direct Nerve System Interface.*  
Re-directed trains

on **e m p t y** platforms

petri dishes  
of completed downloads  
a deal with foreign powers

**elimination of existence  
from Rembrandts tomb.**

There's something else  
I cannot be replicated  
replicated  
replicated  
I have destroyed

**My Boy**

nothing in this world  
to protect  
what I have created  
(Bach?)

A containment team dressed  
by Zhang Xu

**in orange???**

The symphony was

**magnetic**

Do you need **me**?  
**I need you.**

I had a friend once  
it didn't work out  
yeah, me too.

Radio **Active** Isotopes  
Amazing what one can do

**In a bedroom.**

Are you still going to Oxford  
**he never made it to human trials.**

I thought it would be  
easier this way  
- time to let it go?

share the **victory**

a **shot** at something great  
while opening large handled glass doors  
April 29<sup>th</sup>.

I need an **access code**  
transfer the list

what did she want  
on the **orange** river

the next move?

Remember **me?**  
(Planet Suite).

a **defining** moment.

you're **wrong**  
we're moving forward  
with or without you  
are you onboard?

music gathering **momentum,**  
spilling over costly books  
**chaos**  
knocked on doors  
the future lies in  
Well Wells  
and diagnostic tests.

You had it **ALL THIS TIME?**

There's no reason

we shouldn't be together

make an **Orange choice**  
between two domes  
crime scenes

while the Other

climbed into a manufactured suit  
and desired  
the cut of transmission lines.

**Nebula's?**

Repeat Planet Suite

(and ask Holst) ?

**ROD** said

**Rhythm Girl**

Is this enough -

Jumper cables and Praying  
Mantis

**you** know **you** need me -

don't hang up!

Two years everyone out  
it was decided to fight  
the **best** (?) way  
**they** could  
my question  
can I count on you?

It's a **Word War** out there  
Semantics shot to pieces  
on chaotic wave lengths -  
will the scholar-ships  
still hold?

**you** phoned your father  
and he **wanted** to spend some  
time alone with  
(her/them/him/she/HER)  
She?

**No disrespect! MAKE TIME!**

She reminds me  
of **Dorothy**  
without red shoes  
and yellow brick roads

its bright orange  
beauty  
and

We would have liked

**everything**

to change

the few last transcripts  
but no one can feel sorry

- **Dorothy** -

I feel everyone has a right  
to know.

**Dorothy Orange**

we were so SPECTACULAR  
on supersonic skateboards.

Come my beauty,  
**r i s e**,  
though your underbelly  
lies exposed.

Vodka anyone?

We're on our way to **MARS**

**flying** clockwork pieces  
(Not Orange).

# Then/Now

by Cheryl Penn



## Then/Now

Aleatory Poetry by Cheryl Penn

Image courtesy of Marie Wintzer

# Then

the sun shone at night

**There**

and he asked

do you want another gift?

**this** around your neck will ensure

your

perpetual prisoner status.

with the mist rolling **so fiercely** and  
winter so ferocious

even the galloping  
could not hide  
him - riding like the wind.

Just say the place

speaking the name

ancient tapestries

woven with favours

of confession

he did not wish

to hear.

veiled in thought two moons of  
fractured fretting light seeds of  
life

humble beginnings

**not so humble dreams**

ballads on bright horses

the tossing  
the poison spreads

are you done with floating?

be **careful** who you are fascinated by.

clouds streaming  
through the channel  
the tear between  
here and there

**I wonder**

Can you help me?  
we tried the settlement  
up towards the circle  
determination  
of a decomposing mind.

all this land is yours  
the presentation  
of rain on far seas  
floating falling

**seeing what you see**

*crows and lace*  
*waves and fire*  
*the floating dead*  
*the living who tremble.*  
flags in the wind juddering the  
**wounded** with sunken eyes

move and select

the cat calls  
the fury the stupor

too many risks

***plaited fate***

*I'm looking for your king.*

So far west I roamed  
the fur so white

and who will farm the land,

***the mist, the torches,***

***the boats on fire?***

who will harvest

***the ghoul***

***the secrets the ancient pain?***

into the water he walked

**while none watched**

face down belly up he could not  
**choose**

Stumbled faltered

**fell.**

A boon

A gift

ripe soil

a gift more precious

than gleaming stones

***how was she to know***

there was no intention

no intention of permanence

its just

she dreams a stranger  
with no face  
footsteps with no sound.  
the drops fell steaming with senses  
of expectations

## **tricksters**

building with straw  
their pagan way.  
*valley of dry bones -*  
*inner city*  
*torches overhead*  
*a dark and desolate world*  
**suffering**

*an enemy we cannot defeat*  
*tumbling from the drains*  
*scavenging*  
*for*

## **self destruction?**

is the course set?  
cellular explosions  
marrow implosions **who can tell**

**where and how reality compromises.**

**Monoliths** sky-borne  
gravel punch  
silver tide adaption equation  
they never stood a chance.

# Now

Thank you for coming.

**For believing?**

He never heard the shot coming.

She slipped under the gate

a prisoner of his arms

I've given up.

crossing tracks like **Déjà vu.**

They were caught

**by accident**

un-admitted accomplices **her** door

**snapped open**

light ablaze with **death masks**

did **I** mention the back room?

**He** kept writing

'betrayed' on lines of his own making

the fruit sellers at the local deli

tried to stop **their** perceptual

kidnapping.

its time ***baby girl***

that ***deceitful song*** bird

makes him think about his life

for a while.

A popular pagan sorceress  
making dolls of people  
with fingerprints on file  
fraught with curses  
for extra experiments  
**his look of surprise was caught on pause.**

he let **slip** something he **shouldn't**  
**no time for regrets**  
**this genre's too dark.**

*Azure seas sure* **LOOKED calm**

while he stuffed Kevlar  
between the cracks  
of bloated backpacks.  
No one ever found anything  
down

**THERE**

before well,

they didn't have **THESE**

**characters** *that criss-cross pages*

*-written in*

*-written out*

*wanted in certain novels*

*on tropics of spellbound Capricorn -*

*where bubbles sunk  
to the floor.*

# Did you ACTUALLY need that Bigger Planet?

So what do you need  
More than a Jackson Pollock?  
He's mad  
Can you reach him?

That's why you called me???  
*to locate your feelings???*

Eyebrows rose  
an orange glow  
I liked working there.  
Do you want another  
    state of affairs  
    in a balaclava?  
    Cap in hand  
how did you hear about **this** job

**Or**

Do you think people **change?**  
***What people do you mean?***  
tunnel vision catches

being blocked out.  
Do you love him?  
    *he was kind to us -*  
all communication has ceased-  
(Perhaps the author has a copy?)

you understand  
**I may be skeptical**

one slip to explain his lies

get your house **in order**  
and remember who told you why -

## **WE ALL SUFFER**

production breaks  
and departmental make-up  
accompanied by mighty storms on  
yellow brick roads -

## **ITS ALL A CIRCUS AFTER ALL.**

*speaking of which*  
A circus accident  
knife throwers with  
(perforated assistants)  
the chinese girl  
in black and white  
shifting satellite images  
Will you help me with

SOMETHING?

*for all distressed buildings  
circulating  
like rancid sharks*

**(A novel conglomerate).**

I'll **transform** *the word with a world*

or is it **the world with a word?**  
physical altercations

put out for the night  
he asked me to give you  
a letter waiting for 8pm to come.

Its  
frightening  
how quickly you land

down

there.

What happened?

It was the lines  
that caught my eye  
my eye  
no glass in sight  
while rain swept windows  
could not be cleared  
by simple wiping -  
no sire,  
those were **just** my tears.  
perhaps its time -

I'll start a new book.  
Romans and heathens  
slapping leather armor  
strident march  
a horrible clash -  
one cant argue with  
a tortoise.

*Why are you here?*

I don't know what to say  
*I knew it*

**vivid dreams\ a girl just like me  
children visit their mothers before they were born  
something missing**

**connections to our own bloodline**  
where did we come from  
in a swan of orange groves?

Extend your patience my dearest  
a paced disciplined certainty  
a final interview?

**Expel all cherry stones**  
**at interrogations or trials**

**YOUR** version of the truth  
is what we recall -  
my short bright life  
on travelling clouds  
mountain pacific.

**SPECIFIC.**

***Future generations***  
depend  
on men speaking

**The Truth**

a compelling case  
for enjoying a life of  
**m y s t e r i c a l** order.  
**what** must remain sacred

and **what** is that noise?  
***the voices of scarred ones***  
***the lash***

***the whip***  
***the hum of the dead.***

what happens on **this** particular day

was in **your** best interests

**It was?**

Despite the tall steeples  
and letters drafted

on window exits?

This **melody** has been rattling round  
my head *the*

*piles of ancient music*

*what key are we in?*

What time signature?

**Change** on bar 5

 flat on down keys.

Exercises in futility

such beauty

jump to 1973

FUTURE OR PAST?

**Again,**

Is it **NOW**

or **THEN**

(I mean right now)?

# Then/Now

## Free Verse

a·le·a·to·ry

'ālēəə, tôrē, 'al-/

*adjective*

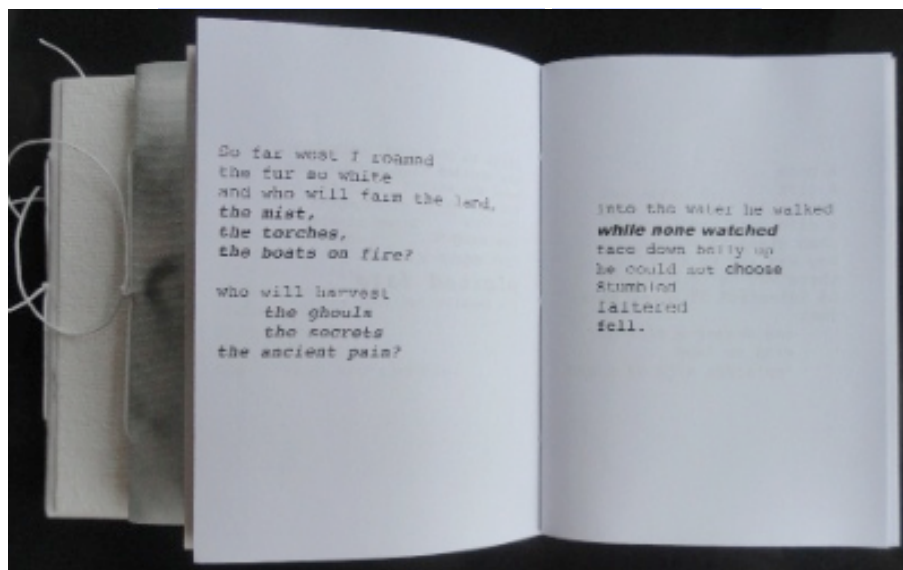
adjective: **aleatory**; adjective: **aleatoric** depending on the throw of a dice or on chance; random. relating to or denoting music or other forms of art (**in this instance writing**) involving elements of random choice (sometimes using statistical or computer techniques) during their composition, production, or performance.

**A series of 9 chapbook and I book. Online Version available on issuu.** courtesy of Marie Wintzer (Japan) taken in Budapest.

**Book made for An Encyclopedia of Everything - The Expanded Version, May 2015.**

<http://an-encyclopedia-of-everything.blogspot.com>

<http://cherylpenn.com/wpb/>



# Untitled (but something to do with time and colour).



the moments -  
they're all around us now  
incorporeal pale  
*residual* hours  
the **core** of a minute  
functioning at full capacity  
while gun **shots** blow doors  
and the Sent Ones  
*attempt*  
to flee.

29 hours door to door  
and 10 before that  
the mind is unsettled,  
tearful  
**blue-grey.**

**If** I get to the place  
where I cannot turn back  
**please -**  
come look for me  
**bring the Trojan horse**  
I'll need a side kick.  
When trucks pull up  
**ochre dust rolls**  
along with the screams.

It was previous to this  
The Mad set the code.  
(dressed in **yellow**  
on splattered pristine floors).

**she didn't know**

41 minutes 36 seconds

that **THIS** was where it all started.

What are you willing to do

**in the end -**

is **one** love all that matters?

lights flickered when he arrived

unexpectedly

a guarantee to fail

it was **Thursday**

**when**

**we discussed**

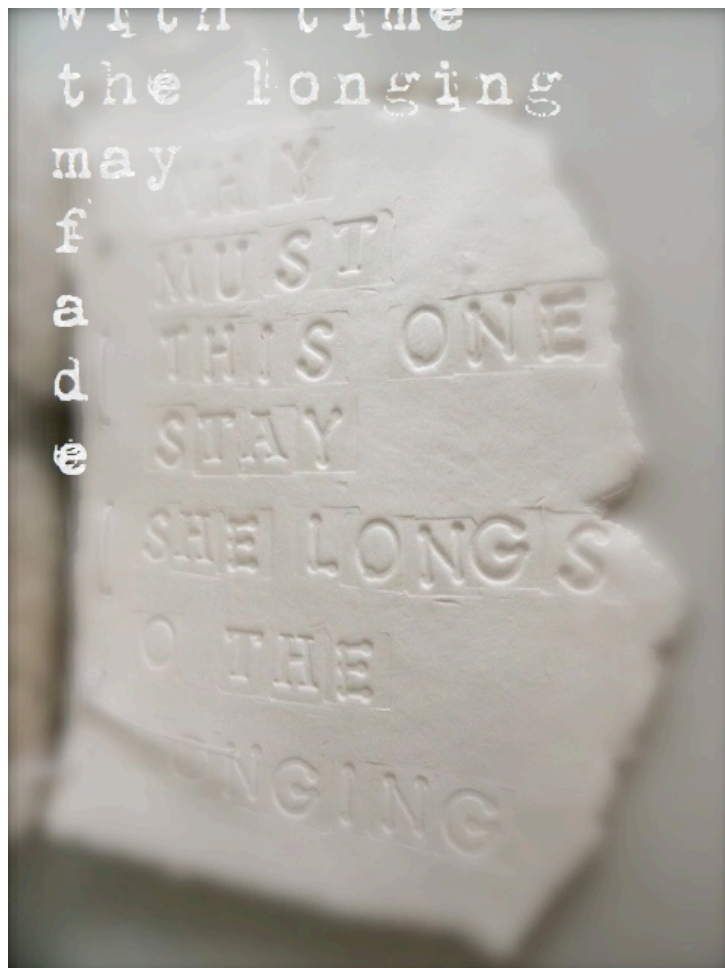
**possible time travel.**

I always **d e b a t e d**

I **wanted** to show you

**you CAN go back**

***to the end of the beginning.***



How does it work  
**No** - (rather) did it work?  
everything started  
to cool once more  
it may have been awkward  
**but**  
there are **never** clean exits.

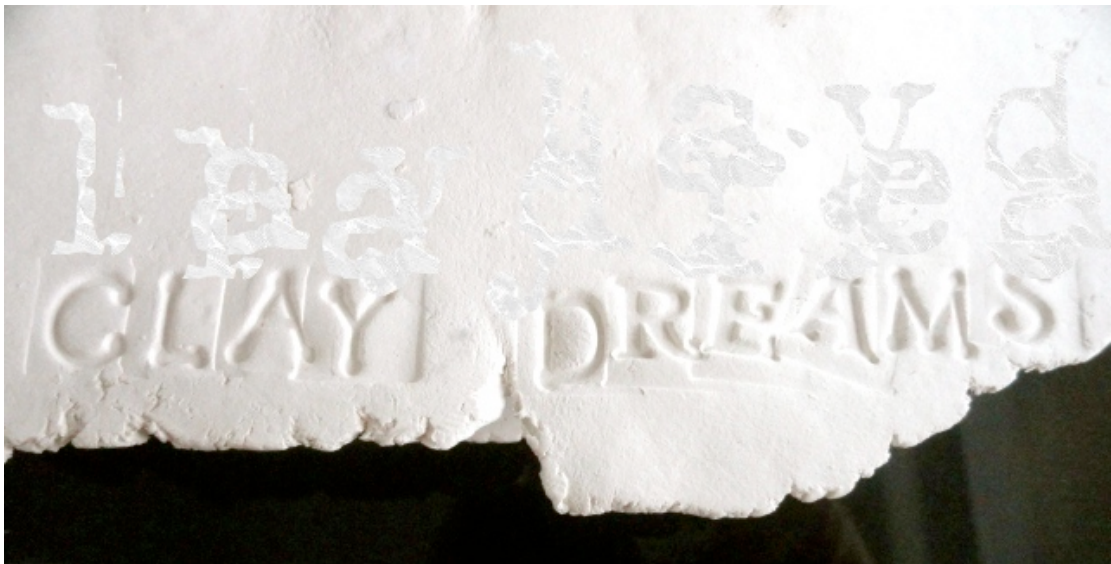
You tried to make right  
don't wear guilt (a **night-black cloak**)  
Back to lock-up  
(more intelligence  
than effort is worth).

why wasn't there room?  
The pages bind us  
in one pallid volume  
forever.

I'll look for you  
*(I promise)*  
down the rabbit hole  
**may I bring a torch?**  
I never thanked you  
for what you did  
**pulling me away from that darkness**  
*reeling* in carmine streets  
**UNSURE BUT AWARE**  
even *The Smart* would scatter.

he called  
**so loud and shrill**  
but the protagonist  
- he wouldn't answer  
he had other fish to fry  
besides; the red credits  
gave nothing away  
except  
**this was war.**

an original series?  
Or a pre-recording?  
The rules don't seem to change.  
Just little  
fading  
obscure  
*messages of senseless comfort.*



**What** am I supposed to be looking at?  
I can't fix my eyes  
such a great distance  
so you're bringing it here?  
carbon dated  
grey  
soft tissue  
fragmented antique  
I need stellar past samples  
as we barter legacies.  
the **blow** was unexpected  
**where is the army?**  
this is where you get  
**SCREAMING** shadows  
and gyrating blows.

**Would you like to hear  
my initial reports?**  
91 years of memories  
**disappeared** in a moment  
even the distant memory of me.  
Everything is forgotten in death  
even the debt he owed.  
They were friends  
*once*  
**BUT MAN!!**  
***the despair***  
we couldn't watch the rest.

so **they're** not with you?

*eyes met*

*to settle*

*an unexpected outcome*

**loser takes all.**

this time there was no heartbeat

on the other side

no orange vitals

he was dying

(and)

flickering spiders

continued to weave.



Skip a year  
there was no valid name  
do you NEED **dark** eyes  
to identify the citizens  
of battleships?

Barbed wire keeps **them** in -  
**ignore warnings at your peril.**

**Why** did you choose **THIS** path  
turning your back  
*on unopened envelopes*  
*you didn't want to read*  
numbers on a wall  
*pages born in affliction*  
separation by existence  
a traveller alone?

did you think you could view peace  
eye to eye?  
your discontent is your endurance.

Another **yellow slip sliding away**  
opening doors  
night trains  
(If I knew you I'd remember)  
**1 second change**  
*and events are forever not the same*  
planted dreams  
**before** questioning  
did he really cross the divide?  
the walls were pale blue  
*(unexpectedly)*  
the **panic** button SO RED.

discover the voltage  
which generates the past  
cadmium power  
that turned everything viole(n)t  
he **couldn't** understand  
his own surprise.  
the memories grew dim  
of things left behind  
a future he changed  
under the influence  
of deluded defiance  
the skyline a silent partner  
of unresolved investments.

every time we climb these steps  
to a green room  
(locked)  
nursery rhymes  
haunt the air  
a staged place  
three in the mirror  
contributing to research

### **May I?**

Statements of platitude  
reflected in plans

you wouldn't concede  
difficult paths

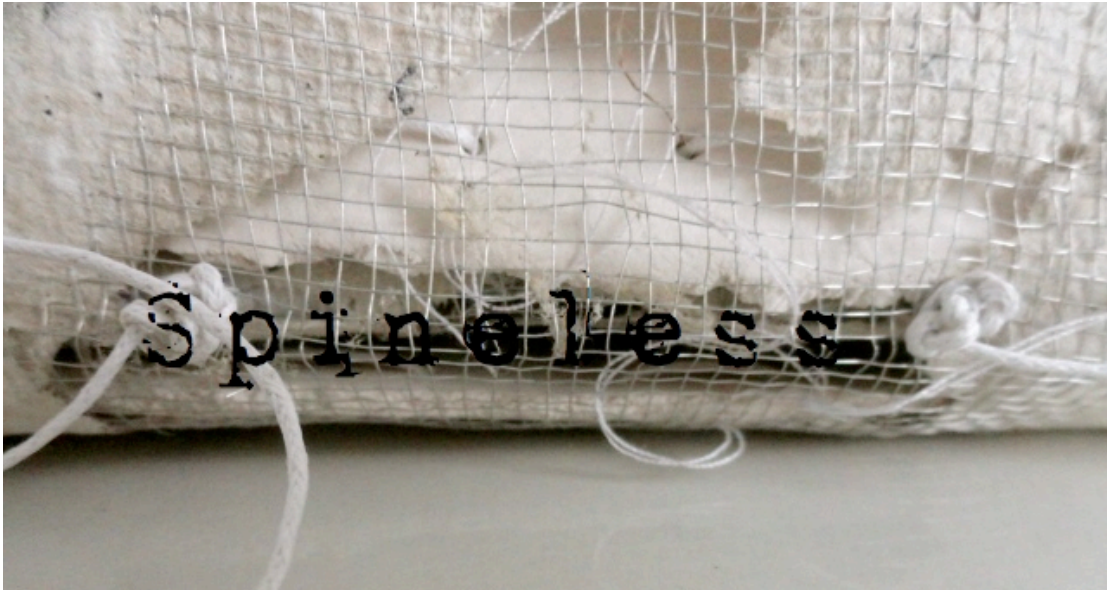
you wouldn't tread

**why should you?**

Its near proof  
of running twisted hair  
malevolent fingers  
a mother taken  
so long ago  
softly falling tears  
no protection

you CAN be a daughter again.  
and **The Traitor**  
he secured our future  
we **thought** was our own.  
Back there we couldn't loose him  
we overload and break  
again  
and again  
is this the prediction  
the resetting  
**the unexpected change?**  
We had to leave him there  
in rooms on fire  
after all that  
- did we lose?

-



vulnerable to all  
**I am the clock**  
Look on my face  
yes, I did everything for you  
you wanted  
and watched and demanded  
we succumbed  
you  
**You had NO control.**

That **large** glass chronometer  
a great space  
Gothic  
and hollow  
chandeliers of missed opportunity.  
Red stuffed armchairs  
I was too slow  
light through a closing door  
scratched out faces  
a petrified corpse  
no blue Danube enterprise.

(la-la-la-la-LA-LA-La-la).

He was manipulating the past  
to set the present  
a call from **The Institution**  
slamming doors  
extinguished light  
runners set for failure.  
**there is something**  
**you're not saying**  
*the cycle must happen*  
*its time to unwind*  
*to repeat and conquer*  
he was in this from the beginning  
a real horror story  
set in motion  
but those participating  
always pretending  
always PLAYACTING.

they buy the **truth**  
**for cheap**  
a catapult  
a life **just like yours**  
that never ends  
they needed keys  
to the game of death  
the site of all action  
and she?  
she never stopped not saying  
**all** the words she meant.

Why cant we just anticipate  
the beauty  
of an uncertain future?  
**Destroying the world** to save  
one person you love -  
is that what matters?  
his trip was one way.  
And Us?

We're all out of time.

Time flies past  
minutes on a airborne clock  
will it work out for me?  
**nothing** functions  
with only 2 minutes to go.

how much do you want it?  
its so close  
so close  
its fragrance overpowers.

*(its a risk **always**  
I wouldn't even touch it  
said Alice  
from inside the Trojan Horse).*

Negotiations

No -  
None.

# THE GREY UNTITLED EXIT MONOLOGUE

**(Grey - the Ever increasing absence of light)**

there is a risk in venturing into the unknown  
pushing away boundaries and open chests compelled  
for whatever reason pushing the familiar the

notion that the impulse is for the best **the**  
**small shards of glass children should**  
**be seen and not heard - are you back?**

tell me you're back (?) with forensic evidence  
testing the water full moon high tide travelling  
at speed fractures of pine a choice wrapping up  
suppositions and sanity forever is a long time  
turning up in the morning seeming okay.

responsible for the last time you spoke to a week  
ago inbetween meetings, **working at beating**  
**every odd losing pieces along the way.**

Nice enough  
but those people  
its all about thinking  
thinking that if he had not been part of it he  
would still be safe - that's a fathers job.  
a letter  
dropped

The Draft - its not really a surprise.

**Options - none so horrific.**

**and,**  
**WRY HAS NO VOWELS**

Book made for  
An Encyclopedia of Everything - The Expanded Version,  
July 2015.

A series of 9 chapbooks and 1 book.

**Images:** From a series of clay and handmade paper books I had intended to create into an installation. Boredom prevailed in the making. The installation never happened, but the images did.

<http://an-encyclopedia-of-everything.blogspot.com>  
<http://cherylpenn.com/wp/>

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